



Aspen Hill Cooperative Nursery School

Covid-19 Policies, 2022-23

In accordance with the new guidance released by the Maryland State Department of Health (MDH) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on July 22, 2022, AHCNS will implement the following policies regarding Covid-19 in the 2022-23 school year. These policies will be reviewed over the course of the school year and adjusted as necessary:

- Masking will be optional. Parents will inform their child's teacher of their preference at the beginning of the school year and may change their mask preference at any time.
- Proper hand-washing procedures will be emphasized as part of our curriculum. Children and adults will wash hands regularly throughout the school day.
- Classes will be kept separated while the community spread level in our county is high. This may be adjusted if the community spread level lessens.
- Families will be allowed in the school during the school day, and may drop their children off at their classrooms.
- Families must stay home if they or their child show symptoms of illness. Please follow the guidelines for illness found in the "Health and Safety" section of the AHCNS Handbook and summarized in the "I need to stay home from school if" graphic (attached). In addition, adults and children should stay home if they have other Covid-19 symptoms such as a new loss of taste or smell or shortness of breath. Families must follow the guidelines set out by the MDH/MSDE regarding testing, quarantine, isolation and mask-wearing after illness (Appendix A, attached).
- If a child or adult is returning after recovering from Covid-19 or after exposure and should wear a mask as indicated in the guidelines, the mask will be worn except when eating, drinking, or outdoors.
- AHCNS will inform families of positive cases in their child's classroom (while maintaining individual privacy) so that they can follow the MDH/MSDE guidelines if they are a close contact.
- AHCNS will sanitize classrooms after report of positive cases as recommended by the CDC.
- AHCNS is required to report positive Covid-19 cases to the Montgomery County Department of Health and the Office of Child Care.
- Classrooms may be closed if required by the Department of Health due to the number of cases in the school or if AHCNS cannot maintain the required staff to child ratio.

In addition to these guidelines, please keep in mind that according to the CDC, the best way to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 is through vaccination of eligible family members, frequent hand washing, improving ventilation, testing, and masking if necessary. For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>







Appendix A: MDH/MSDE Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Isolation, and Quarantine

Staff or Student/Child with:	Guidance for Management
COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child should not attend or work in a school or child care setting ● COVID-19 testing is recommended ● If test is negative, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without medication, and applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met
Positive test for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child must stay home for 5 days from the start of symptoms or from the date of the positive test if no symptoms ● After day 5, may return if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication ● Upon return, must wear a mask for 5 additional days (except while eating, drinking, sleeping or outside) ● If unable to wear a mask, may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for days 6 -10
Close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19 but no symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child can continue to work in or attend school and child care regardless of vaccination status ● Those who can mask should do so for 10 days from the last day of exposure ● A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot mask (ex. children under 2 years of age)

Source: Guidance to Support Safe In-Person Operations for PreK-12 Schools and Child Care Programs, July 22, 2022.

https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/covid_guidance_full_080420.pdf

I need to **STAY HOME** from school if:

I have a fever	I am vomiting	diarrhea	have a rash	head lice	I have an eye infection
					
Temperature of 100° F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/or crusty drainage from eye

I'm ready to go back to school when...

I have not had a fever for 24 hours (WITHOUT help from medication).	I have not vomited for at least two meals.	I have not had diarrhea for at least 24 hours.	I have no rash or itching, I saw my doctor if I needed to.	I had lice treatment at home and haven't seen new nits for 24 hours.	I have been taking medicine for at least 24 hours.
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